

B3

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : C07K 16/24, C12N 15/24, 15/27, A61K 39/395, 38/20, A61P 35/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/66632
			(43) International Publication Date: 9 November 2000 (09.11.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00394			(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
(22) International Filing Date: 1 May 2000 (01.05.00)			
(30) Priority Data: PQ 0053 29 April 1999 (29.04.99) AU			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MEDVET SCIENCE PTY LTD [AU/AU]; Level 3, South Wing, IMVS Building, Frome Road, Adelaide, S.A. 5000 (AU).			
(72) Inventors; and			
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): D'ANDREA, Richard [AU/AU]; (AU). BAGLEY, Christopher [AU/AU]; (AU). VADAS, Mathew, Alexander [AU/AU]; The Hanson Centre for Cancer Research, Frome Road, Adelaide, S.A. 5000 (AU).		Published	<i>With international search report.</i>
(74) Agent: APT. PATENT AND TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS; G. P. O. Box 772, Adelaide, S.A. 5001 (AU).			

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

(54) Title: AGONISTS OR ANTAGONISTS FOR HAEMOPOIETIC GROWTH FACTORS

(57) Abstract

An agonist or antagonist of a haemopoietic growth factor that is capable of binding a region of the CRD3 of $h\beta_c$ or analogous domain of a corresponding haemopoietic growth factor receptor to thereby impact on an interaction between CRD3 and CRD4 or analogous domains to thereby effect an agonist or antagonist property. The agonist or antagonist properties may be to a member of the cytokine receptor family where the member is selected from any one of a group acting as a receptor for any one or more of IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-9, IL-11, IL-13, IL-15, granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), growth hormone (GH), prolactin (PRL), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), erythropoietin (EPO), thrombopoietin (TPO), leukaemia inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin-M (OSM), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), the p40 subunit of IL-12, leptin and newly discovered members of the cytokine receptor family.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

AGONISTS OR ANTAGONISTS FOR HAEMOPOIETIC GROWTH FACTORS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to agonists and antagonists to certain haemopoietic growth factors
5 and to methods of isolating the agonists and antagonists and to therapeutic use of the
agonists or antagonists.

INTRODUCTION

10 Granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), Interleukin-3 (IL-3) and
Interleukin-5 (IL-5) are cytokines involved in hemopoiesis and inflammation and all
three stimulate eosinophil production, function and survival and therefore have the
ability to influence inflammatory diseases such as asthma, atopic dermatitis and allergic
rhinitis where the eosinophil plays a major effector role. In addition, GM-CSF and IL-
3 also stimulate the proliferation, differentiation and functional activity of a wider
15 variety of haemopoietic cells including neutrophils, monocytes and early progenitor
cells.

20 GM-CSF, IL-3 and IL-5 have overlapping, pleiotropic effects on haemopoietic cells
and these effects include mitogenesis, protection from apoptosis, differentiation and
functional activation. The overlapping activities observed with these cytokines is
explained by the fact that the high affinity receptors for human GM-CSF, IL-3 and IL-5
share a common β -subunit ($h\beta_C$). These three receptor complexes (GMR, IL3R and
IL5R), which are discussed in detail by Miyajima *et al.*(1), are each comprised of
unique ligand-specific subunits (GMR α , IL3R α or IL5R α) and a shared subunit
25 ($h\beta_C$), which appears to be the primary signalling subunit (2). While it is clear that $h\beta_C$
is required for signalling it is still uncertain whether the α subunits have a direct
signalling role. Although their cytoplasmic segments are clearly required for the normal
function of these receptors (4-7), as yet no signalling molecules have been detected that
associate with α subunits, and it appears that under some circumstances, β subunit
30 dimerisation is sufficient for signalling (8-10). The stoichiometry of the active receptor
complex has not been defined. Whilst signalling via $\beta\beta$ dimers suggests a higher order
complex, there is no definitive published evidence that rules out the simple model that
an $\alpha_1\beta_1$ dimer can deliver intracellular signals - in fact this is consistent with results
obtained using fos- and jun- leucine-zipper receptor subunit chimeras (11).

35

The receptor subunits for GM-CSF, IL-3 and IL-5 are all members of the cytokine
receptor (CR) superfamily (12, 13) which is characterised by a two hundred amino
acid, extracellular, CR module (CRM). Each CRM comprises two fibronectin-like β

barrel structures (CR domains, CRD (14)); the seven β -strands in the membrane-distal and -proximal CRDs are designated A to G and A' to G', respectively. Within the membrane-distal CRD are two pairs of disulfide-linked cysteine residues, while the membrane-proximal CRD of nearly all CRs contains a motif with the consensus Trp-
5 Ser-Xaa-Trp-Ser (where Xaa is any amino acid) - referred to as the "WSXWS box". In addition to the GM-CSF, IL-3 and IL-5 receptor subunits other members of this family include the receptor subunits for growth hormone (GH), prolactin (PRL), erythropoietin (Epo), thrombopoietin (Tpo), Interleukin-2 (IL-2), IL-4, IL-6, IL-7, IL-9, IL-11, IL-13, IL-15, Granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), leukaemia
10 inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin-M (OSM), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), the p40 subunit of IL-12 and most recently the leptin receptor (15).

A number of activating mutations in $h\beta_c$ have now been described. These have been informative with respect to the activation of the GM-CSF receptor and are summarised
15 in a recent review (16). All of the mutants were isolated on the basis of their ability to confer factor-independent growth on the normally factor-dependent murine myeloid cell line, FDC-P1. A common feature of a large group of these mutants is that the mutations affect the membrane-proximal CRM of the extracellular portion of $h\beta_c$ (CRD3 and CRD4). *In vitro*, these mutants confer factor-independence only on
20 myeloid (granulocyte-macrophage) cells (17), a restriction explained by the recent finding that in mouse cell lines the CRD4 mutants require and interact with the (murine) GM-CSF receptor α -subunit (mGMR α) (18). These mutants also have activity in a subset of human haemopoietic cell lines suggesting that cell type-specific interactions are also important for activity in human cells (18). Interestingly, most of the
25 extracellular activating amino acid substitutions affect hydrophobic residues that are in β -strands and several of these residues are highly conserved within the CR family (16,19) (WO 97/07125 to D'Andrea *et al*). We have proposed that CRD4 acts as a conformational switch and that normally, in the absence of ligand, it is constrained in an inactive conformation which cannot form a functional complex with the mGMR α (16).
30 The extracellular mutations in CRD4 appear to act by inducing a conformational change that results in an association with a mGMR α subunit (18). We suggest that in the normal human receptor the active conformation of CRD4 is induced by ligand association allowing a functional association with hGMR α . This is consistent with the observation that there are crucial contacts between ligand and $h\beta_c$ within CRD4 (20-
35 23).

The maintenance of the inactive conformation may be mediated through an interaction involving CRD3 and CRD4 (16,26). The structure of the inactive EPOR dimer

provides a model for such a structure (25). It has been shown previously that truncation of the extracellular region of $h\beta_c$ can result in activation; for example, a truncation equivalent to that which generated an oncogenic form of Tpo receptor (v -Mpl; ie which leaves only part of CRD4, see below) was shown to allow factor-independent proliferation of FDC-P1 cells (24). The critical event appears to be the loss of CRD3, since a truncation that retained all of CRD4, but removed CRDs 1, 2 and 3 was also activating, whereas removal of only CRDs 1 and 2 was insufficient to promote factor-independent proliferation (24) (WO 97/07125 to D'Andrea *et al*).

10 Activating mutations have also been characterised in other cytokine receptors. A constitutively active form of erythropoietin (EPO-R) containing an arginine to cysteine substitution in the membrane proximal CRD (at position 129) has been described. This R129C form of EPO-R forms disulphide linked homodimers in the absence of EPO suggesting that wild type EPO-R is activated by ligand induced homodimerisation

15 (26). The introduction of further cysteine residues into the EPO-R membrane proximal domain also leads to disulphide linked homodimers that are constitutively active (27). v -*mpl* is a murine oncogene encoding an activated cytokine fusion protein v -MPL and is transduced by the murine myeloproliferative leukaemia virus (MPLV) (28). The v -*mpl* fusion was generated from the partially deleted and rearranged *env* gene fused with

20 cellular sequences from the *c-mpl* proto-oncogene encoding the thrombopoietin (TPO) receptor (29).

Whilst Haemopoietic Growth Factors (HGF) have proved therapeutically useful, they are large proteins that have to be administered parenterally. The possibility that small molecules might replace these has been an attractive concept, but small molecules based on ligand are likely to be too complicated as a result of having to bind to the two (or more) receptor chains. Small molecules that sterically alter the receptor or induce an active conformation (in this case β_c) therefore could provide a similar spectrum of activity as ligand and be orally available. This advance would make therapy easier and possibly cheaper. The fact that these molecules would need to interact with receptor extracellularly would potentially simplify their design as they would not need to cross the cell membrane for function.

35 This work with $h\beta_c$ activating mutants has implications for the development of small molecule CR agonists. We predict that CRD3 and CRD4 of $h\beta_c$, or the equivalent domains of other CRs, would be ideal targets for isolating functional antibodies or small molecules. A small molecule that binds to a single binding site in one of these extracellular domains could induce receptor association if it was capable of affecting this

inhibitory interaction. It is important to stress that molecules of this type would be acting in a novel manner, by binding to a single CR subunit rather than by directly mediating receptor association as is the case for the erythropoietin and thrombopoietin peptide mimetics described recently (30-32). These peptides require contact with both 5 subunits for function and thus it is unlikely that these molecules will be able to be reduced greatly in size and still retain function.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 The present inventors have found a small deletion in CRD3 (Δ G254, A255) which is predicted to shorten the A-B loop and which confers constitutive activation. Additionally the inventors have data regarding a mutation in the adjacent E-F loop of CRD3 (Δ A314, T315). The present invention is predicated on the proposal that these residues are involved in interactions that are critical in modulating receptor activity. The 15 A-B loop and the E-F loop of CRD3 are therefore both key regulatory loops in $h\beta_c$ and conservation in receptor structure throughout the CR family suggests a similar role throughout the superfamily. It is possible that the B'-C' and F'-G' loops of CRD4 that are important in ligand binding, may be involved in interactions with the A-B loop and E-F loop in the inactive receptor and that perturbation of these interactions constitutes 20 one mechanism of activation. This structure may take a form that is similar to that described for an inactive EPOR dimer (25).

Interaction of ligand with these key loops in CRD3 or CRD4 may perturb inhibitory interactions in the same way as truncation or small deletion. This would result in 25 conversion of the inactive receptor structure to an active structure capable of intracellular signalling. In the alternative they may result in inhibitory reactions that antagonise the actions of the cytokines that usually bind the receptors concerned.

30 Thus in a first aspect the invention could be said to reside in an agonist or antagonist of an haemopoietic growth factor, said agonist or antagonist capable of binding a region of the CRD3 of $h\beta_c$ or analogous domain of a corresponding haemopoietic growth factor receptor to thereby impact on an interaction between CRD3 and CRD4 or analogous domains to thereby effect an agonist or antagonist property.

35 As is known in the art, the membrane proximal CRD of nearly all CRs contain a motif with a consensus WSXWS sequence. It is also known that the CRs contain conserved VRVR and WSXWS motifs which flank regions of $h\beta_c$ and other receptors that are

known to be important for binding (see Middleton *et al.* (40); Woodcock *et al.* (22); Rajotte *et al.* (41); Layton *et al.* (42); Horsten *et al.* (43); Kalai *et al.* (44)).

5 The agonist or antagonist may have agonist or antagonist properties to a member of the cytokine receptor family where the member is selected from any one of a group acting as a receptor for any one or more of the following cytokines IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, IL-7, IL-9, IL-11, IL-13, IL-15, growth hormone (GH), prolactin (PRL), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), erythropoietin (EPO), thrombopoietin (TPO), leukaemia inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin-M (OSM), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), the 10 p40 subunit of IL-12 and leptin. Alternatively the agent may be an agonist or antagonist of any one of GM-CSF, IL-5 and IL-3 or of a newly discovered cytokine that resembles other cytokines in structure or is known to bind to a receptor that has a predicted structure resembling that of a cytokine receptor. Further, the agent may function through a predicted cytokine receptor for which ligand is not yet identified.

15 The agonist or antagonist may be selected from any one of a number of classes of compounds including antibodies, fragments of antibodies (Fab, Fv or peptide fragments), peptides, oligosaccharides, oligonucleotides, or other organic or inorganic compounds.

20 Preferably the antagonist or agonist may be capable of binding to a region selected from a group comprising the A-B loop and the E-F loop.

25 In one preferred form of the invention the antagonist or agonist binds to the A-B loop of CRD 3 or an analogous domain within the family of haemopoietic growth factors.

30 The predicted A-B loop of CRD3 may be bounded by a cysteine residue at position 250 and 260 and having a tyrosine residue at position 262 (h β C numbering). The sequence of the A-B loop in analogous domains of other cytokine receptors can be predicted using the sequences between these conserved cysteine residues. Thus in one preferred form of the invention the antagonist or agonist may bind any one or more of the sequences listed in Figure 2.

35 In another preferred form of the invention the antagonist or agonist binds to the E-F loop of CRD3 or an analogous domain within the family of haemopoietic growth factors.

The predicted E-F loop of CRD3 may be bounded by a conserved cysteine in the E strand at position 306 and by an alternating series of hydrophobic residues in the F strand (positions 316, 321 and 323; see Figure 6) Thus in one preferred form of the invention the antagonist or agonist may bind any one or more of the sequences listed in 5 Figure 6.

As discussed it is expected that the A-B and E-F loops of CRD3 are involved in interactions with the B'-C' and/or F'-G' loops of CRD4. Thus the antagonist or agonist may interfere with the interaction of the A-B loop of CRD3 or an analogous 10 region within the family of haemopoietic growth factors with the F'-G' loop of CRD4 or an analogous domain within the family of cytokine receptors. Alternatively, the antagonist or agonist may interfere with the interaction of the A-B loop of CRD3 or an analogous region within the family of cytokine receptors, with the B'-C' loop of CRD4 or an analogous domain within the family of cytokine receptors.

15

In another embodiment of the invention the antagonist or agonist may interfere with the interaction of the E-F loop of CRD3, or an analogous domain within the family of cytokine receptors with the F'-G' loop of CRD4 or an analogous region within the 20 family of cytokine receptors. Alternatively, the antagonist or agonist may interfere with the interaction of the E-F loop of CRD3, or an analogous region within the family of cytokine receptors with the B'-C' loop of CRD4 or an analogous domain within the family of cytokine receptors.

25

In a second aspect the invention could be said to reside in a method for isolating an agonist or antagonist of an haemopoietic growth factor, said agonist or antagonist capable of binding a region of the CRD3 of h β C or analogous domain of a corresponding cytokine receptor to thereby impact on an interaction between CRD3 and CRD4 or analogous domains to thereby effect an agonist or antagonist property, said method including the steps of contacting candidate agonists or antagonists with CRD3 30 or fragments thereof, assaying candidate agents for their capacity to bind CRD3 or fragment thereof and testing for agonist or antagonist properties.

The method may include the step of isolating a monoclonal antibody to CRD3 using methods that are well known to those skilled in the art (Zola *et al.* (45)).

35

The method may include fixing CRD3 or a fragment thereof to a substrate, contacting the fixed CRD3 or fragment with candidate antagonists or agonists, washing away material not bound to the fixed CRD3 or fragment, identifying the bound candidate

antagonists or agonists, and testing the bound candidate antagonists or agonists for antagonist or agonist properties.

Methods of producing libraries of candidate antagonists or agonists are well known to
5 those skilled in the art, and may include preparation of diversity libraries, such as random combinatorial peptide or nonpeptide libraries, that can be screened for molecules that specifically bind to CRD3 or a fragment thereof. Many libraries are known in the art that can be used, e.g., chemically synthesized libraries, recombinant (e.g., phage display libraries), natural products libraries, and in vitro translation-based
10 libraries.

Screening the libraries can be accomplished by any of a variety of commonly known methods such as those found in PCT Publication No. WO 94/18318, for example. In a specific embodiment, screening can be carried out by contacting the library members
15 with CRD3 or a fragment thereof (or nucleic acid or derivative) immobilized on a solid phase and harvesting those library members that bind to the protein (or nucleic acid or derivative). Examples of such screening methods, termed "panning" techniques are described by way of example in Parmley and Smith, 1988, Gene 73:305-318; Fowlkes et al., 1992, BioTechniques 13:422-427; PCT Publication No. WO 94/18318.

20 The agonist or antagonist properties of candidate agonists or antagonists may be tested using methods known in the art. Such methods may include monitoring the growth of factor-dependent cell lines in the absence of growth factor and the presence of a candidate molecule. Alternative approaches may include a biochemical assay to detect
25 signalling, which assays might include any one of the following: tyrosine phosphorylation status of the receptor, the levels of phosphorylation on ERK1 and ERK2 MAP kinases, JAK and STAT tyrosine phosphorylation, STAT DNA binding activity, and activation of reporter genes induced by specific signalling pathways.

30 In a third aspect the invention could be said to reside in a pharmaceutical composition, said composition including an agonist or antagonist as described or defined herein, and a suitable excipient.

35 Methods for preparing pharmaceutical compositions are well known in the art as reference can be made to Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Eaton, Pa., USA and may also include one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

In a fourth aspect the invention could be said to reside in a method of treating a condition in a human or animal by administering an agonist or antagonist of a member of the cytokine receptor family as described or defined herein in a pharmaceutically acceptable form, in a suitable carrier and in a therapeutically effective dose.

5

Conditions that may be treated include those that are currently treated by GM-CSF, IL-3 and IL-5 as well as those in which other members of the family of haemopoietic growth factors are used in treatment.

10 The antagonists of the present invention may be useful *inter alia* in the treatment of myeloid and lymphocyte leukemias, tumors of non-haemopoietic origins and acute and chronic inflammation such as asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and atherosclerosis. These and other conditions are considered herein to result from or be facilitated by the aberrant effects of an endogenous HGF such as GM-CSF, IL-3 or IL-5.

15

The treatment may be preventative and reduce the risk of contracting the condition or it may be used to alleviate or obviate the condition. The administration of the therapeutic agent can be in any pharmaceutically acceptable form in a suitable carrier, and in a therapeutically acceptable dose.

20

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25

Figure 1. Model of CRD3 and CRD4 of h β _C. A model showing the predicted h β _C CRD3/4 structure based on structures of other cytokine receptors (33). The spheres indicate the α -carbon atoms of residues Glycine 254 and Alanine 255 in the A-B loop. The arrows indicate the B'-C' and F'-G' loops of CRD4 which have been shown to be important in ligand contact (see text and 20).

30

35

Figure 2. Alignment of A-B loop sequences of cytokine receptors. The sequences of the predicted A-B loop for h β _C and other related CRs are shown. Conserved cysteine and tryptophan residues are boxed. A highly conserved acidic residue (D253 in h β _C) within the loop region is underlined. The residues deleted in the Δ GA mutant are boxed.

Figure 3.

5 Proliferation of FDC-P1 cells expressing the ΔGA form of h β c. Infected FDC-P1 cells grown in the presence (black) or absence (white) of mGM-CSF. Proliferation assays were performed as described in Materials and Methods. FDC-P1 cells infected with a wild type h β c retrovirus, an h β c Δ retrovirus (34) or a ΔGA retrovirus are shown.

Figure 4.

10 Proliferation of BaF-B03 cells infected with retroviruses encoding activated forms of h β c. (A) Proliferation of BaF-B03 cells infected with the ΔGA mutant, (B) Proliferation of infected BaF-B03 expressing the murine GM-CSF α -subunit, infected with the ΔGA mutant. Cells were grown in the presence (grey) or absence (black) of murine IL-3. Control cell populations infected with a wild type h β c retrovirus, or a retrovirus carrying the constitutive mutant V449E (16) are also shown.

Figure 5.

15 Proliferation of CTL-EN cells in response to hIL-3. Proliferation of CTL-EN cells expressing hIL3R α and h β c mutants. Cells were grown in the presence of the indicated concentrations of human IL-3. A control cell population expressing only hIL3R α is also shown.

Figure 6.

20 Alignment of E-F loop sequences of cytokine receptors. The sequences of the predicted E-F loop for h β c and other related CRs are shown. The alignment consists of the three known structures (Growth hormone receptor, GHR, EPOR and the IL-6 receptor β -chain, gp130). The β -strand structure is indicated below the alignment; E: conserved β -strand, e: β -strand observed in at least one structure. Also included are the sequences of thrombopoietin and the leptin receptors (TPOR and OBR). The conserved cysteine in strand E and the hydrophobic residues in strand F are boxed. The residues deleted in the DAT mutant are underlined. and

30

35

Figure 7

Proliferation of BaF-B03 cells infected with retroviruses

encoding the Δ AT mutant of $h\beta_c$. (A) Proliferation of BaF-B03 cells infected with the Δ AT mutant (B)

5 Proliferation of BaF-B03 cells expressing the murine GM-CSF α -subunit, infected with the Δ AT mutant.

Cells were grown in the presence (grey) or absence (black) of murine IL-3. Control cell populations infected with the pRUFNeo retrovirus, or a retrovirus carrying the constitutive mutant V449E (16) are also shown.

10

METHODS

Construction and expression of $h\beta_c$ receptor mutations.

We generated a deletion of two residues in CRD3 of $h\beta_c$ using the mutagenic 15 oligonucleotide 5`GAGTGCTTCTTGACGCAGTACTCAGCTGCTCC3` . A deletion of two residues was constructed in the E-F loop of CRD 3 using the oligonucleotide 5'CCCGTGCCCGACCCCCATGGCCAATACATC3'. Mutagenesis was performed using an $h\beta_c$ cDNA cloned into the mutagenesis vector pALTER and the procedure recommended by the manufacturer (Promega). Mutations were 20 confirmed by DNA sequencing. For expression, the mutant receptor cDNA was excised from pALTER and cloned into the retroviral expression vector pRUFNeo (35). Retroviral DNA was used to transfect the ecotropic packaging cell line, Ψ 2 (Mann), and virus from G418 resistant cells was used to infect the murine haemopoietic cell lines, FDC-P1, BaF-B03 or CTL-EN by co-cultivation.

25

Cell lines, Growth Factors and flow cytometry.

Murine myeloid, IL-3/GM-CSF dependent FDC-P1 cells and derived cell lines were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 7.5% fetal bovine serum and murine GM-CSF (80U/ml; gift from Dr. G. Begley, Walter and 30 Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research, Melbourne Australia). Murine IL-3 dependent BaF-B03 cells were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 7.5% fetal bovine serum and murine IL-3 (300 U/ml; gift from Dr. A. Hapel, John Curtin School for Medical Research, Canberra, Australia). Murine IL-2 dependent CTL-EN cells (37 were maintained in RPMI supplemented with 10% bovine serum and murine IL-2 . 35 BaF-B03 cells expressing high levels of the murine GM-CSF receptor α -subunit (mGMR α) and CTL-EN cells expressing high levels of the human IL-3 receptor α -subunit (hIL3R α) have been reported previously (38).

After co-cultivation with producer cells FDC-P1, BaF-B03 or CTL-EN cells were harvested and selected in the presence of appropriate antibiotic and growth factor. Receptor expression was examined by flow cytometric analysis after staining with the FLAG-specific monoclonal antibody, M2 (Kodak/IBI). Briefly, cells were washed and 5 resuspended in cold PBS supplemented with 5% BSA (PBSA). Cells were incubated with the M2 monoclonal antibody (1:300) for 20 minutes on ice, washed and subsequently incubated with biotinylated antimouse IgG (1:50, Vector Lab. Inc.) for 20 minutes on ice. After washing and resuspension in cold PBSA the cells were incubated with streptavidin conjugated phycoerythrin (1:50, Caltag Laboratories) for a further 20 10 minutes, washed, resuspended in PBSA + 0.01% sodium azide and analysed using an Epics-Profile II analyser (Coulter).

Mitogenic assays.

To assay proliferation, infected cells (FDC-P1, BaF-B03 and CTL-EN) were washed 15 three times with PBS to remove growth factor and then assayed in triplicate (5000 cells per well) in a 96-well microtiter plate in the presence and absence of the appropriate growth factor. Cell growth was determined after 72 hours using a Cell Titer 96 non-radioactive cell proliferation assay (Promega). Quantitation was performed using an automated plate reader (BioRad).

20

RESULTS

Construction and expression of mutant h β c cDNA.

Our previous studies indicated that an interaction between the two membrane proximal domains (CRD3 and CRD4) of h β C may maintain the receptor in an inactive state (16, 25 24). To further define the sequences in CRD3 that are involved in this inhibitory interaction we used molecular modelling to identify regions predicted to lie in close proximity to the key ligand binding loops of CRD4. Molecular modelling suggested that the A-B and E-F loops of CRD3 may limit the mobility of the binding loops in CRD4 and therefore affect the conformational flexibility of this domain (see Figure 1). 30 This idea is further supported by the interactions that occur between these loops in the inactive EPOR homodimer (25). Thus we targeted these loops for *in vitro* mutagenesis. In the cytokine receptor superfamily the A-B loop is of invariant size and lies between two highly conserved cysteine residues (39). Thus we can confidently predict the sequence of this loop in CRD3 (see Figure 2). The E-F loop is less well defined, 35 however, there is a conserved cysteine in the E-strand which can be used for alignment and the F-strand has an alternating series of hydrophobic residues (see figure 6). To assess the function of the A-B loop we deleted two residues (Δ G254, A255) predicted to lie in the centre. The modified h β c cDNAs were cloned into the retroviral expression

vector pRUFNeo and introduced into the retroviral packaging cell line, Ψ 2. A stable pool of transfected Ψ 2 cells was produced by antibiotic selection. To test the ability of the Δ GA mutant to induce factor-independent growth, we infected the murine myeloid cell line, FDC-P1, and the IL-3 dependent pro-B cell line, BaF-B03 expressing mouse GM-CSF receptor α -subunit. We demonstrated surface expression of the mutant receptor on infected cells by flow cytometry following staining with the monoclonal antibody, M2 (data not shown).

Proliferation of infected FDC-P1 and BaF-B03 cells.

10 Uninfected FDC-P1 cells and G418-resistant FDC-P1 cells infected with pRUFNeo retrovirus carrying the wild type form of $h\beta_c$ grew in the presence of mGM-CSF but failed to proliferate after removal of growth factor (see Fig. 3). In contrast FDC-P1 cells infected with the Δ GA mutant gave rise to a population of FDC-P1 cells that proliferated in the absence of growth factor. These cells could be maintained in long term culture using complete medium lacking exogenous growth factor. The small degree of proliferation observed in the absence of factor following infection with the Δ GA retrovirus does not reflect the proportion of G418 resistant population that express receptor as a large proportion of cells are stained for $h\beta_c$ by flow cytometry (data not shown). Thus, it is possible that only a sub-population of FDC-P1 cells are capable of proliferation in response to this mutant. This implies that a threshold level of expression is required to support growth in the absence of factor or alternatively a critical signalling component is limiting in the majority of cells in the population. FDC-P1 cells infected with the DAT mutant did not consistently give rise to a population of cells that proliferated in the absence of growth factor (data not shown)

15

20

25

In common with wild type $h\beta_c$ and the I374N mutant (16) the Δ GA and Δ AT mutant were incapable of conferring IL-3 independent growth when used to infect the murine pro-B cell line BaF-B03 (Fig. 4A and 7A). However like many of the extracellular mutants both mutants conferred factor-independence when introduced into BaF-B03 cells expressing the mGMR α (Fig. 4B and Fig. 7B). In this case a sizeable sub-population of cells was capable of growth in the absence of growth factor implying that BaF3 cells contain all the required factors to support proliferation from these mutants. Importantly both mutants behave in a manner that is identical to the truncation mutant $h\beta_c$ Δ QP in which CRDs 1-3 are completely deleted (see ref 24)

30

35

To examine the ability of the Δ GA mutant to function in a ligand-dependent fashion we introduced Δ GA retrovirus into CTL-EN cells expressing hIL3R α . We have shown

previously that activated forms of h β _C do not confer growth factor-independent proliferation on these cells even in the presence of mGMR α . However, several of the h β _C mutants confer a response to human IL-3 in CTL-EN cells expressing the human IL3R α (38). These cells therefore provide a useful system for analysing the ability of 5 mutant h β _C to interact with another α -subunit and ligand. These cells therefore provide a useful system for analysing the ability of mutant h β _C to interact with another α -subunit and ligand. We introduced the Δ GA mutant into these CTL-EN(hIL3R α) cells and measured the proliferative response over a range of hIL-3 concentrations. As shown in Figure 5 the response to IL-3 is identical for cells expressing wild type h β _C 10 and the Δ GA mutant. Thus, the two residue deletion does not appear to perturb the ability of h β _C to interact with hIL3R α or to bind IL-3. We conclude therefore that this mutation does not cause a major disruption to the structure of h β _C. These results are also consistent with previous studies showing that the key ligand binding determinants in h β _C are located in the B'-C' and F'-G' loops of CRD4 (20).

15

EXAMPLES

Example 1 - Methods for Detecting Antagonist or Agonist Molecules

Methods may include monitoring the growth of factor-dependent cell lines in the absence of growth factor and the presence of a candidate molecule (as described above). 20 Alternative approaches include a biochemical assay to detect signalling, which assays might include any one of the following: tyrosine phosphorylation status of the receptor, the levels of phosphorylation on ERK1 and ERK2 MAP kinases, JAK and STAT tyrosine phosphorylation, STAT DNA binding activity, and activation of reporter genes induced by specific signalling pathways.

25

Example 2 - Method for Producing Antibodies

The production of antibodies to CRD3 or an fragment thereof may be carried out by any of the techniques familiar to those skilled in the art. For example, production of 30 monoclonal antibodies involves immunisation of animals with recombinant CRD3 or CRD3-derived peptide coupled to carrier protein. Derived antibodies are then screened for ability to detect recombinant CRD3 and hbc (and truncated derivatives) expressed on the surface of cultured animal or human cells. Antibodies are tested for function as described in Example 1 above.

Example 3 - Method of Screening for Small Molecule Antagonists or Agonists

A diversity library such as a random combinatorial peptide or nonpeptide library is prepared according to any one or more of the following references. Alternatively a

library of natural products may be screened according to the methods known in the art and discussed herein.

Examples of chemically synthesized libraries are described in Fodor et al., 1991, 5 Science 251:767-773; Houghten et al., 1991, Nature 354:84-86; Lam et al., 1991, Nature 354:82-84; Medynski, 1994, Bio/Technology 12:709-710; Gallop et al., 1994, J. Medicinal Chemistry 37(9):1233-1251; Ohlmeyer et al., 1993, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:10922-10926; Erb et al., 1994, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:11422-11426; Houghten et al., 1992, Biotechniques 13:412; Jayawickreme et al., 1994, Proc. 10 Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:1614-1618; Salmon et al., 1993, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:11708-11712; PCT Publication No. WO 93/20242; and Brenner and Lerner, 1992, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:5381-5383.

Examples of phage display libraries are described in Scott and Smith, 1990, Science 15 249:386-390; Devlin et al., 1990, Science, 249:404-406; Christian, R. B., et al., 1992, J. Mol. Biol. 227:711-718); Lenstra, 1992, J. Immunol. Meth. 152:149-157; Kay et al., 1993, Gene 128:59-65; and PCT Publication No. WO 94/18318 dated Aug. 18, 1994.

20 *In vitro* translation-based libraries include but are not limited to those described in PCT Publication No. WO 91/0505 dated Apr. 18, 1991; and Mattheakis et al., 1994, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:9022-9026.

By way of examples of nonpeptide libraries, a benzodiazepine library (see e.g., Bunin 25 et al., 1994, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:4708-4712) can be adapted for use. Peptoid libraries (Simon et al., 1992, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:9367-9371) can also be used. Another example of a library that can be used, in which the amide functionalities in peptides have been permethylated to generate a chemically transformed 30 combinatorial library, is described by Ostresh et al. (1994, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:11138-11142).

The library can then be screened against CRD3 or fragment thereof using any of a variety of commonly known methods. See, e.g., the following references, which disclose screening of peptide libraries: Parmley and Smith, 1989, Adv. Exp. Med. Biol. 251:215-218; Scott and Smith, 1990, Science 249:386-390; Fowlkes et al., 1992; BioTechniques 13:422-427; Oldenburg et al., 1992, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:5393-5397; Yu et al., 1994, Cell 76:933-945; Staudt et al., 1988, Science 241:577-580; Bock et al., 1992, Nature 355:564-566; Tuerk et al., 1992, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.

USA 89:6988-6992; Ellington et al., 1992, *Nature* 355:850-852; U.S. Pat. No. 5,096,815, U.S. Pat. No. 5,223,409, and U.S. Pat. No. 5,198,346, all to Ladner et al.; Rebar and Pabo, 1993, *Science* 263:671-673; and PCT Publication No. WO 94/18318.

5

Thus, the screening can be carried out by contacting the library members with CRD3 or fragment thereof immobilized on a solid phase and harvesting those library members that bind to the protein (or nucleic acid or derivative). Examples of such screening methods, termed "panning" techniques are described by way of example in Parmley and 10 Smith, 1988, *Gene* 73:305-318; Fowlkes et al., 1992, *BioTechniques* 13:422-427; PCT Publication No. WO 94/18318; and in references cited hereinabove.

REFERENCES

- 15 1. Miyajima et al.. (1993) *Blood* **82**, 1960-1974
2. Kitamura et al. (1991) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **88**, 5082-5086
3. Kitamura & Miyajima. (1992) *Blood* **80**, 84-90
4. Sakamaki et al (1992) *EMBO J.* **11**, 3541-3549
5. Takaki et al. (1994) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **14**, 7404-7413
- 20 6. Polotskaya et al (1993) *Cell Growth Differ.* **4**, 523-531
7. Barry et al (1997) *Blood* **89**, 842-852
8. Muto et al. (1995) *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* **208**, 368-375
9. Eder et al (1994) *J. Biol. Chem.* **269**, 30173-30180
10. Takaki et al. (1993) *J. Exp. Med.* **177**, 1523-1529
- 25 11. Patelet al (1996) *J. Biol. Chem.* **271**, 30386-30391
12. Mui & Miyajima (1994) *Prog. Growth Factor. Res.* **5**, 15-35
13. Miyajima et al. (1992) *Ann. Rev. Immunol.* **10**, 295-331
14. Goodall et al (1993) *Growth Factors*. **8**, 87-97
15. Tartaglia et al (1995) *Cell* **83**, 1263-1271
- 30 16. Gonda & D'Andrea (1997) *Blood* **89**, 355-369
17. McCormack & Gonda (1997) *Blood* **90**, 1471-1481
18. Jenkins et al (1999) *J. Biol. Chem.* **274**, 8669-8677
19. Jenkins et al (1996) *J. Biol. Chem.* **271**, 29707-29714
20. Bagley et al (1997) *Blood* **89**, 1471-1482
- 35 21. Woodcock et al (1994) *EMBO J.* **13**, 5176-5185
22. Woodcock et al. (1996) *J. Biol. Chem.* **271**, 25999-26006
23. Lock et al (1994) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **91**, 252-256
24. D'Andrea et al (1996) *Blood* **87**, 2641-2648

25. Livnah *et al* (1999) *Science* **283**, 987-990
26. Watowich *et al* (1992) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **89**, 2140-2144
27. Watowich *et al* (1994) *Mol. Cell Biol.* **14**, 3535-3549
28. Fichelson *et al* (1995) *J. Immunol.* **154**, 1577-1586
- 5 29. Broudy & Kaushansky. (1995) *J. Leukoc. Biol.* **57**, 719-725
30. Cwirla *et al* (1997) *Science* **276**, 1696-1699
31. Wrighton *et al* (1996) *Science* **273**, 458-463
32. Livnah *et al* (1996) *Science* **273**, 464-471
33. Bagley *et al* (1995) *J. Leukocyte Biol.* **57**, 739-746
- 10 34. D'Andrea *et al* (1994) *Blood* **83**, 2802-2808
35. Rayner & Gonda (1994) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **14**, 880-887
36. Mann *et al.* (1983) *Cell* **33**, 153-159
37. Baker *et al.* (1992) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **20**, 5234
38. Jenkins (1998) PhD thesis, University of Adelaide.
- 15 39. Bazan (1990) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **87**, 6934-6938
40. Middleton *et al.* (1999) *J. Biol. Chem.* **274**, 14163-14169
41. Rajotte *et al.* (1997) *J. Exp. Med.* **185**, 1939-1950
42. Layton *et al.* (1997) *J. Biol. Chem.* **272**, 29735-29741
43. Horsten *et al.* (1997) *J. Biol. Chem.* **272**, 23748-23757
- 20 44. Kalai *et al.* (1997) *Blood* **89**, 1319-1333
45. Zola *et al.* (1982) "Techniques For The Production and Characterization of Monoclonal Hybridoma Antibodies", in *Monoclonal Hybridoma Antibodies: Techniques and Applications*, Hurell (ed.), p51-52 (CRC Press).

CLAIMS

1. An agonist or antagonist of an haemopoietic growth factor, said agonist or antagonist capable of binding a region of the CRD3 of h β C or analogous domain of a corresponding haemopoietic growth factor receptor to thereby impact on an interaction between CRD3 and CRD4 or analogous domains to thereby effect an agonist or antagonist property.
5
2. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 1 having agonist or antagonist properties to a member of the cytokine receptor family where the member is selected from any one of a group acting as a receptor for any one or more of the cytokines selected from the list including IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-9, IL-11, IL-13, IL-15, granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), growth hormone (GH), prolactin (PRL), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), erythropoietin (EPO), thrombopoietin (TPO), leukaemia inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin-M (OSM), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), the p40 subunit of IL-12, leptin and newly discovered members of the cytokine receptor family.
10
3. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 1 having agonist or antagonist properties to any one of GM-CSF, IL-5 and IL-3.
20
4. An agonist or antagonist according to either of Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein the antagonist or agonist binds to a region selected from a group comprising the A-B loop and the E-F loop of CRD 3 or analogous domains within the family of haemopoietic growth factor receptors.
25
5. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 4 wherein the antagonist or agonist binds to the A-B loop of CRD 3 or an analogous domain within the family of haemopoietic growth factor receptors.
30
6. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 5 wherein the antagonist or agonist binds any one or more of the sequences listed in Figure 2.
7. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 6 wherein the antagonist or agonist interferes with interaction of the A-B loop of CRD3 or an analogous region within the family of haemopoietic growth factors with the F'-G' loop of CRD4 or an analogous domain within the family of cytokine receptors.
35

8. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 6 wherein the antagonist or agonist interferes with the interaction of the A-B loop of CRD3 or an analogous region within the family of cytokine receptors, with the B'-C' loop of CRD4 or an analogous domain within the family of cytokine receptors.

5

9. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 4 wherein the antagonist or agonist binds to the E-F loop of CRD3 or an analogous domain within the family of haemopoietic growth factors.

10 10. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 9 wherein the antagonist or agonist binds any one or more of the sequences listed in Figure 6.

11. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 10 wherein the antagonist or agonist interferes with the interaction of the E-F loop of CRD3, or an analogous domain 15 within the family of cytokine receptors with the F'G' loop of CRD4 or an analogous region within the family of cytokine receptors.

12. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 10 wherein the antagonist or agonist interferes with the interaction of the E-F loop of CRD3, or an analogous region 20 within the family of cytokine receptors with the B'C' loop of CRD4 or an analogous domain within the family of cytokine receptors.

13. An agonist or antagonist according to Claim 2 wherein the agonist or antagonist is selected from any one of a number of classes of compounds including antibodies, 25 fragments of antibodies, peptides, oligosaccharides, oligonucleotides, or other organic or inorganic compounds.

14. A method for isolating an agonist or antagonist of an haemopoietic growth factor, said agonist or antagonist capable of binding a region of the CRD3 of h β C or 30 analogous domain of a corresponding cytokine receptor to thereby impact on an interaction between CRD3 and CRD4 or analogous domains to thereby effect an agonist or antagonist property, said method including the steps of contacting candidate agonists or antagonists with CRD3 or fragments thereof, assaying candidate agents for their capacity to bind CRD3 or fragment thereof and testing for agonist or antagonist 35 properties.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the method includes fixing CRD3 or a fragment thereof to a substrate, contacting the fixed CRD3 or fragment with candidate antagonists or agonists, washing away material not bound to the fixed CRD3 or fragment, identifying the bound candidate antagonists or agonists, and testing the
5 bound candidate antagonists or agonists for antagonist or agonist properties.

16. A pharmaceutical composition, said composition including
an agonist or antagonist of an haemopoietic growth factor, said agonist or
antagonist capable of binding a region of the CRD3 of h β C or analogous domain of a
10 corresponding haemopoietic growth factor receptor to thereby impact on an interaction
between CRD3 and CRD4 or analogous domains to thereby effect an agonist or
antagonist property, and
a suitable excipient.

15 17. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 16 wherein the agonist or
antagonist has agonist or antagonist properties to a member of the cytokine receptor
family where the member is selected from any one of a group acting as a receptor for
any one or more of the cytokines selected from the list including IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5,
IL-6, IL-7, IL-9, IL-11, IL-13, IL-15, granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating
20 factor (GM-CSF), growth hormone (GH), prolactin (PRL), granulocyte colony
stimulating factor (G-CSF), erythropoietin (EPO), thrombopoietin (TPO), leukaemia
inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin-M (OSM), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), the
p40 subunit of IL-12, leptin and newly discovered members of the cytokine receptor
family.

25 18. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 17 wherein the agonist or
antagonist has agonist or antagonist properties to any one of GM-CSF, IL-5 and IL-3.

19. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 17 or Claim 18 wherein the
30 agonist or antagonist binds to a region selected from a group comprising the A-B loop
and the E-F loop of CRD 3 or analogous domains within the family of haemopoietic
growth factor receptors.

20. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 19 wherein the agonist or
35 antagonist binds to the A-B loop of CRD 3 or an analogous domain within the family of
haemopoietic growth factor receptors.

21. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 20 wherein the agonist or antagonist binds any one or more of the sequences listed in Figure 2.

22. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 19 wherein the agonist or antagonist binds to the E-F loop of CRD3 or an analogous domain within the family of haemopoietic growth factor receptors.

23. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 22 wherein the agonist or antagonist binds any one or more of the sequences listed in Figure 6.

24. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 17 wherein the agonist or antagonist is selected from any one of a number of classes of compounds including antibodies, fragments of antibodies, peptides, oligosaccharides, oligonucleotides, or other organic or inorganic compounds.

25. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal by administering an agonist or antagonist of an haemopoietic growth factor, said agonist or antagonist capable of binding a region of the CRD3 of h β C or analogous domain of a corresponding haemopoietic growth factor receptor to thereby impact on an interaction between CRD3 and CRD4 or analogous domains to thereby effect an agonist or antagonist property, and

in a pharmaceutically acceptable form, in a suitable carrier and in a therapeutically effective dose..

26. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal according to Claim 25 wherein the agonist or antagonist has agonist or antagonist properties to a member of the cytokine receptor family where the member is selected from any one of a group acting as a receptor for any one or more of the cytokines selected from the list including IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-9, IL-11, IL-13, IL-15, granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), growth hormone (GH), prolactin (PRL), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), erythropoietin (EPO), thrombopoietin (TPO), leukaemia inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin-M (OSM), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), the p40 subunit of IL-12, leptin and newly discovered members of the cytokine receptor family.

27. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal according to Claim 26 wherein the agonist or antagonist has agonist or antagonist properties to any one of GM-CSF, IL-5 and IL-3.

28. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal according to Claim 27 wherein the agonist or antagonist binds to a region selected from a group comprising the A-B loop and the E-F loop of CRD 3 or analogous domains within the family of haemopoietic growth factor receptors.

5

29. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal according to Claim 28 wherein the agonist or antagonist binds to the A-B loop of CRD 3 or an analogous domain within the family of haemopoietic growth factor receptors.

10

30. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal according to Claim 29 wherein the agonist or antagonist binds any one or more of the sequences listed in Figure 2.

15

31. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal according to Claim 28 wherein the agonist or antagonist binds to the E-F loop of CRD3 or an analogous domain within the family of haemopoietic growth factor receptors.

20

32. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal according to Claim 31 wherein the agonist or antagonist binds any one or more of the sequences listed in Figure 6.

25

33. A method of treating a condition in a human or animal according to Claim 26 wherein the agonist or antagonist is selected from any one of a number of classes of compounds including antibodies, fragments of antibodies, peptides, oligosaccharides, oligonucleotides, or other organic or inorganic compounds.

1/9

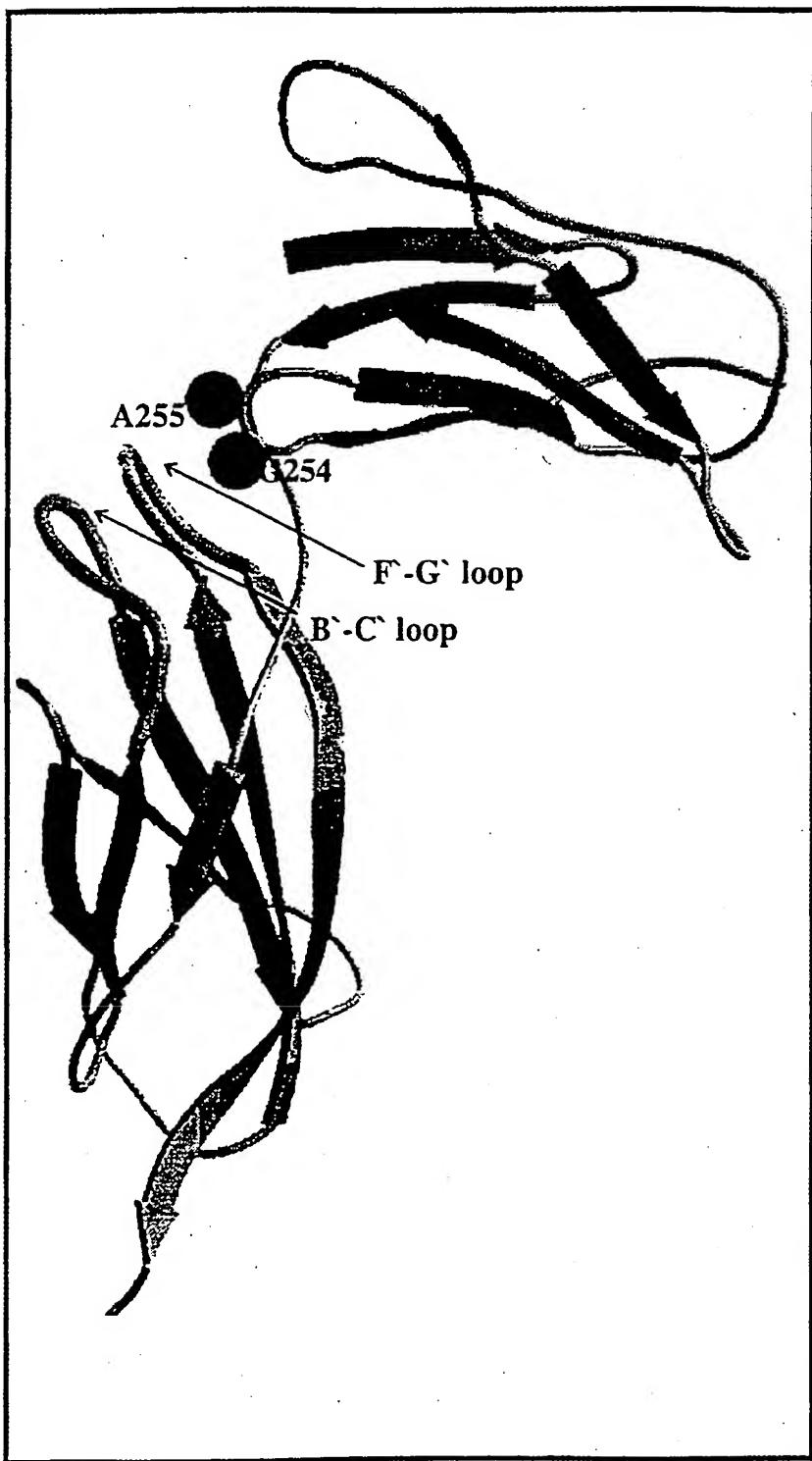


FIGURE 1

2/9

Cytokine-receptor subunits

A-B loop alignment

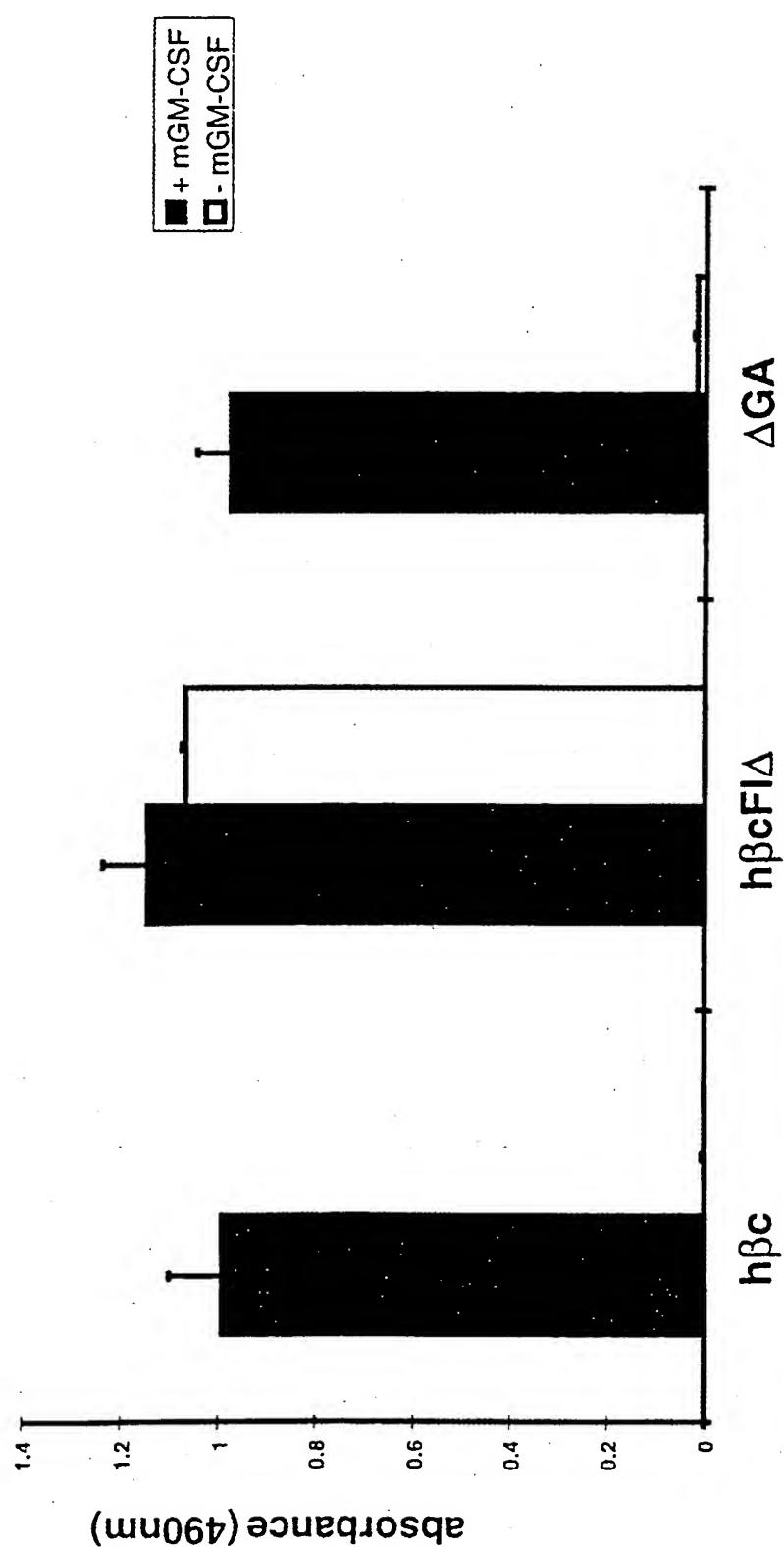
h β C	CRM2	CFF <u>FDGA</u> -AVLSCSW
m β C	CRM2	CFF <u>DGI</u> -QSLHCSW
m β IL3	CRM2	CFF <u>DGI</u> -QSLHCSW
h β C	CRM1	CYND <u>Y</u> T-SHITCRW
m β C	CRM1	CYND <u>Y</u> T-NHIICSW
m β IL3	CRM1	CYND <u>Y</u> T-NRIICSW
hTPOR	CRM2	CFT <u>LDL</u> -KNVTCQW
mTPOR	CRM2	CFT <u>LDL</u> -KMVTCQW
hTPOR	CRM1	CSRT <u>FED</u> -LTCFW
mTPOR	CRM1	CSQT <u>FED</u> -LTCFW
hEPOR		CF <u>TERLED</u> -LVCFW
hLIFR	CRM2	C <u>EHD</u> KKE-IICSW
mLIFR	CRM2	C <u>EHD</u> LKE-IICSW
hOBR	CRM2	C <u>ETD</u> GYLT <u>KMT</u> CRW
mOBR	CRM2	C <u>ETD</u> GYLT <u>KMT</u> CRW
hgp130		C <u>IV</u> NEGK-KMRCEW
mgp130		C <u>IV</u> NEGK-NMLCQW
h-gamma		CFVF <u>NVEY</u> -MNCTW
m-gamma		CFVF <u>NIEY</u> -MNCTW
hIL2Rb		CFY- <u>NSRAN</u> ISCVW
mIL2Rb		CFY- <u>NSRAN</u> VSCMW
hGMRA		CFIY <u>NAD</u> -LMNCTW
hIL3R α		CWIHD <u>DVD</u> -FLSCSW
hGHR		CRSP <u>ERETF</u> -SCHW

FIGURE 2

3 / 9

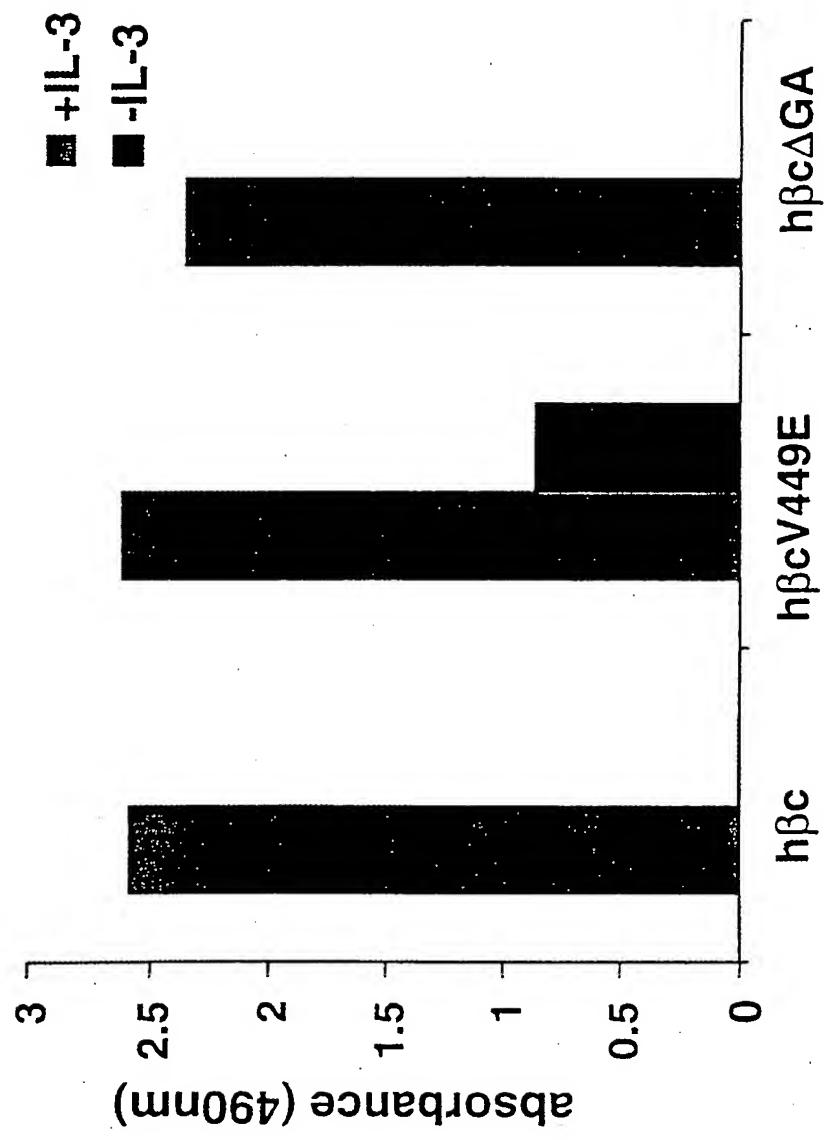
Δ GA mutant proliferation in FDC-P1 cells

FIGURE 3



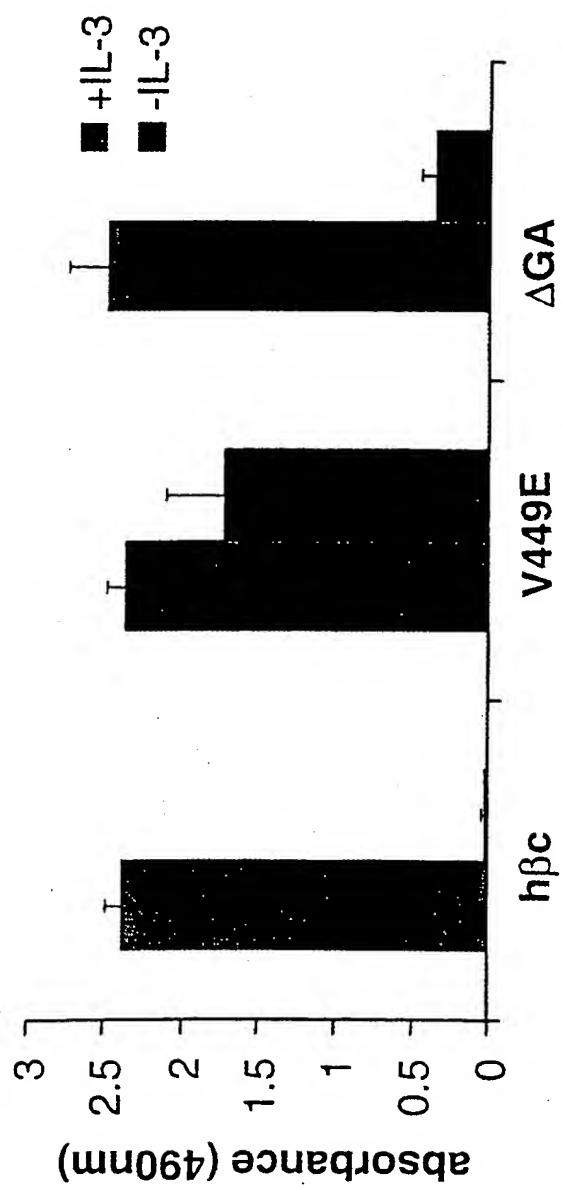
4 / 9

FIGURE 4A

 Δ GA mutant proliferation in BaF-B03 cellsSUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)
RO/AU

5 / 9

FIGURE 4B

 Δ GA mutant proliferation in BaF-B03 cells expressing mGMR α 

6/9

Growth of Δ GA mutant in CTL-EN cells expressing hL3R α

FIGURE 5

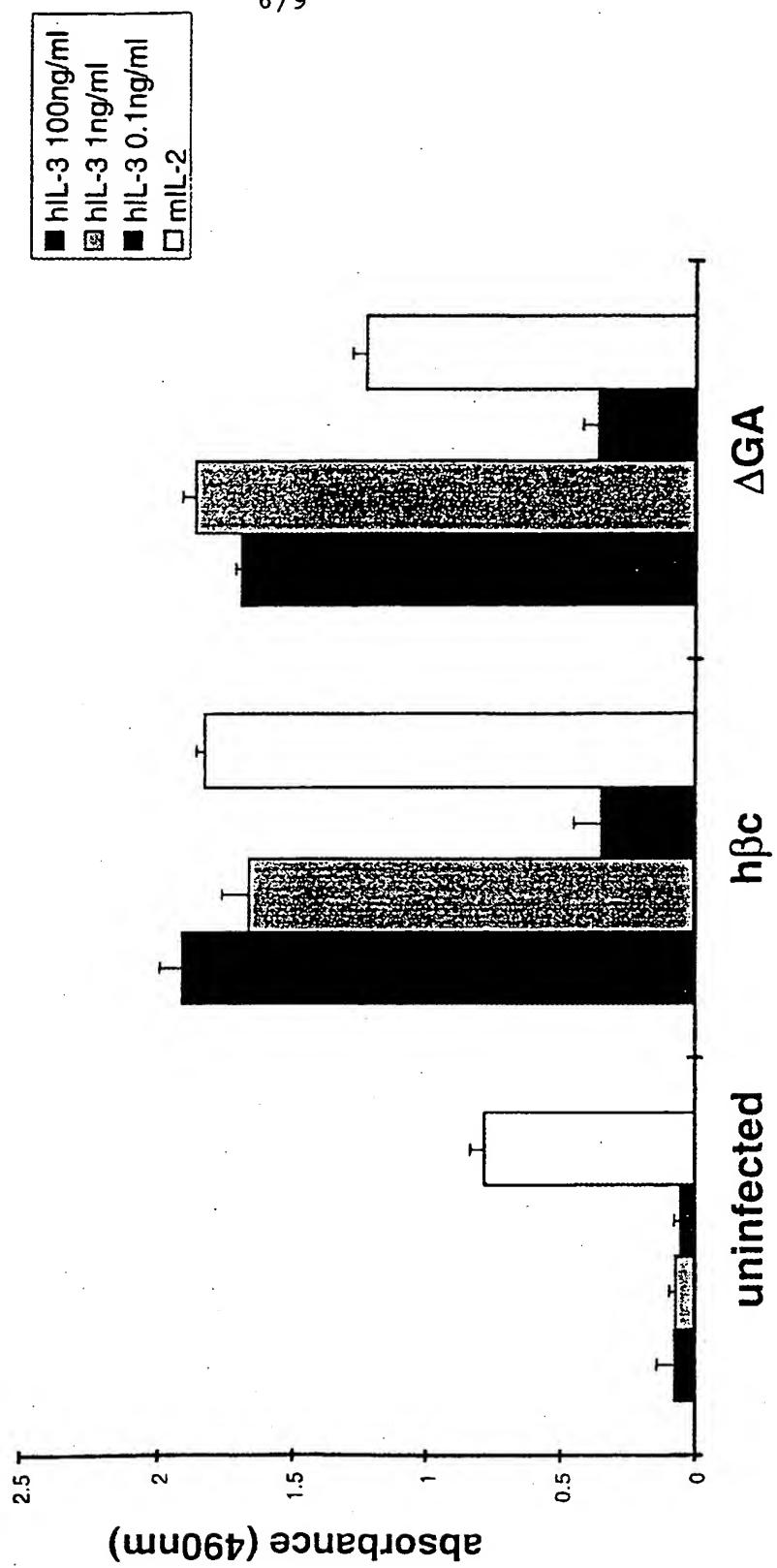
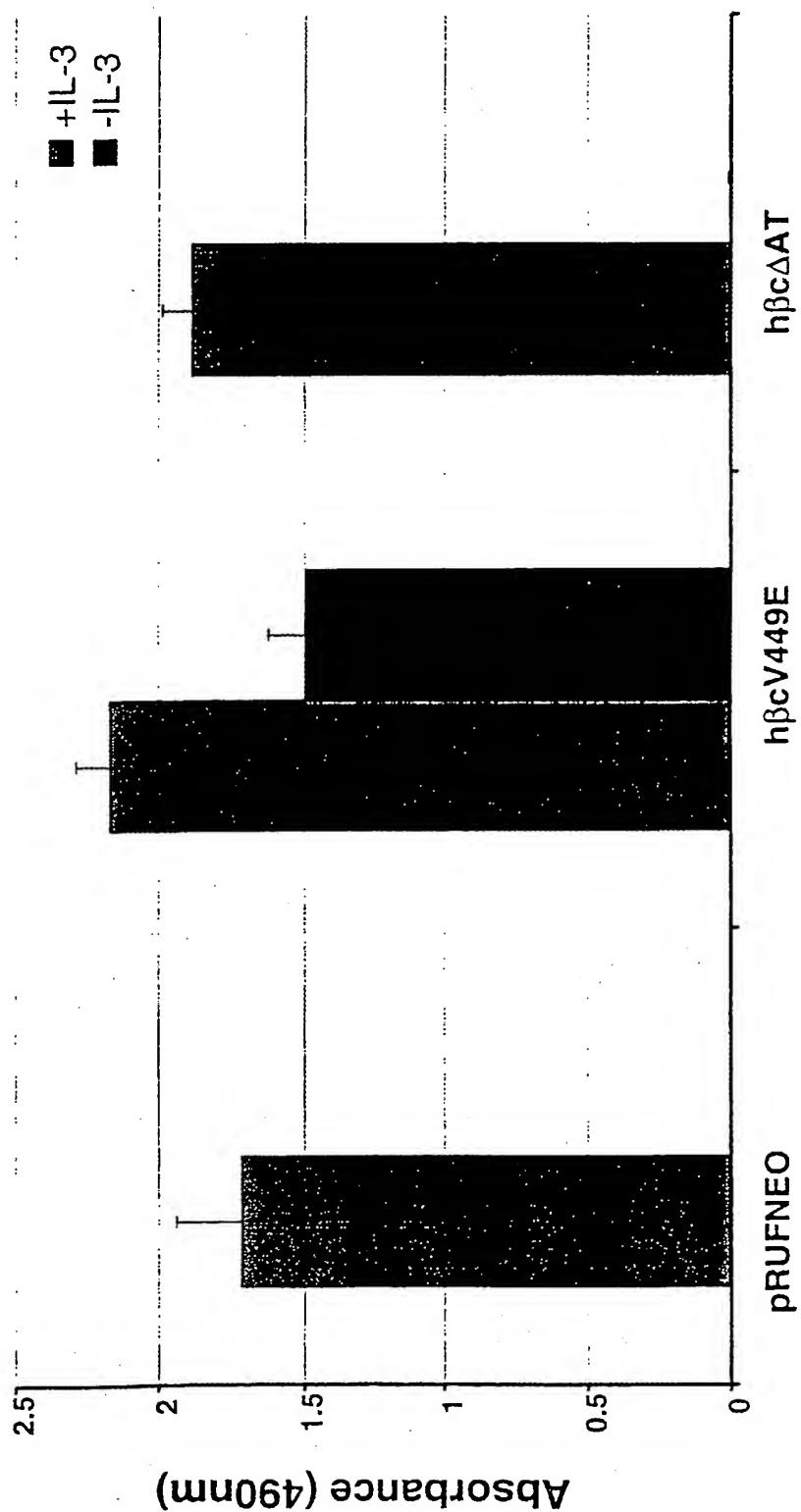


FIGURE 6

hfc	H	T	R	H	C	Q	P	S	A	N	P	H	E
ghr	A	G	E	N	S	C	C	T	Y	D	P	A	T
gp130	D	T	P	T	F	C	C	S	D	F	T	S	W
EPOR	A	V	R	R	Y	W	W	V	D	Y	T	H	A
TPOR CRM1	G	T	P	F	S	V	V	R	Q	F	S	T	E
TPOR CRM2	P	O	F	F	Y	R	R	D	R	F	T	H	E
OBR CRM2	D	G	F	F	E	C	C	S	N	D	S	L	S
strand	E	E	E	E	E	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	E

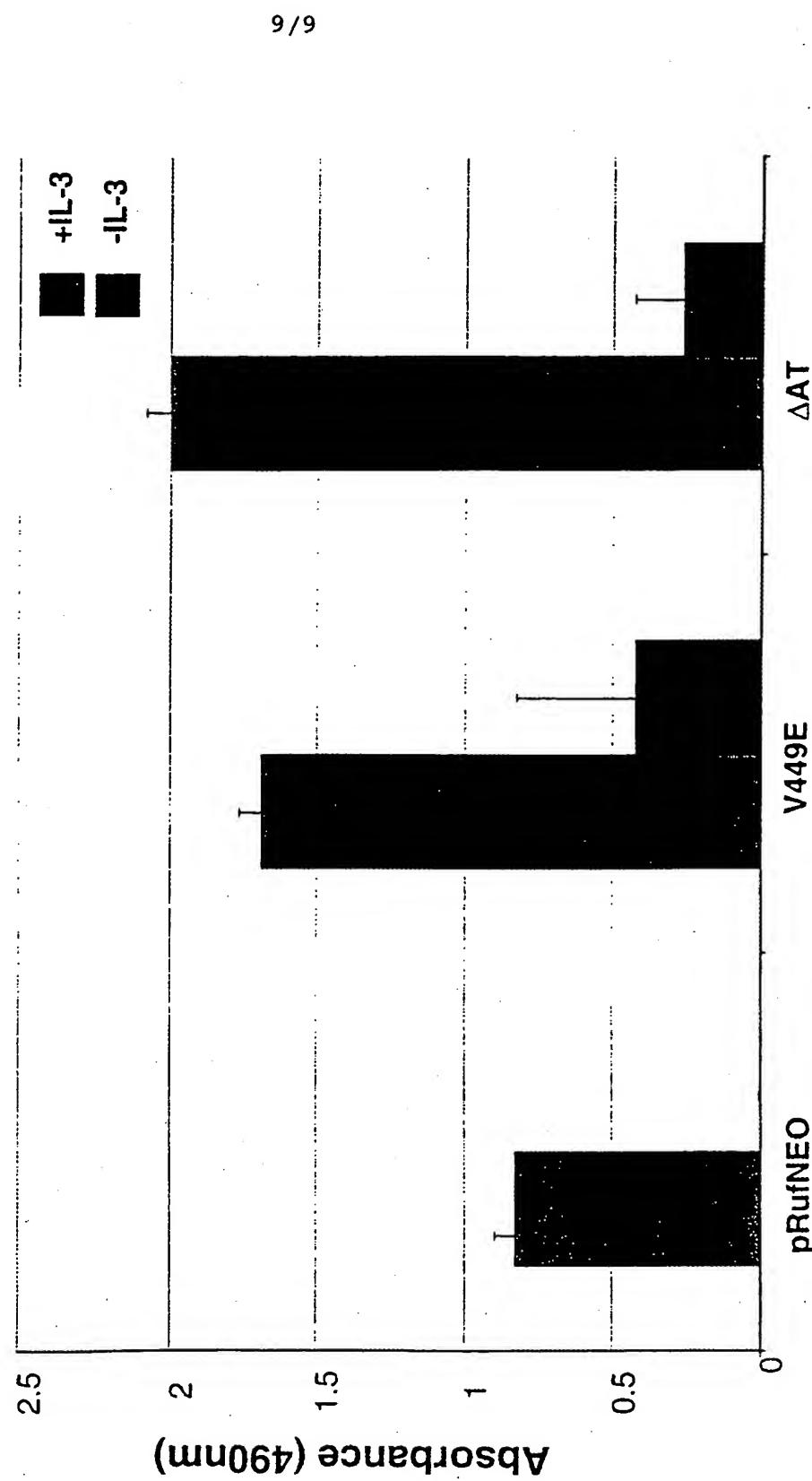
8/9

FIGURE 7A

 Δ AT proliferation in BaF-Bo3 cells

Δ AT proliferation in BaF-B03 cells expressing mGMR α

FIGURE 7B



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00394

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. 7: C07K 16/24; C12N 15/24, 15/27; A61K 39/395, 38/20; A61P 35/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) ELECTRONIC DATABASES		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) STN: CA, Medline, Biosis, WPIDS - keywords		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 9707215 (MEDVET SCIENCE) 27 February 1997 See whole document.	1-33
X Y	Blood Vol 89 Jan 1997 pages 355-369 Gonda TJ et al, "Activating Mutations in Cytokine Receptors: Implications for Receptor Function and Role in Disease" See whole document especially page 359 column 2, page 360 column 2, page 362	1-33 1-13, 16-33
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 June 2000		Date of mailing of the international search report 13 JUL 2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer O.L. CHAT Telephone No : (02) 6283 2482

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/AU00/00394

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Blood Vol 87 April 1996, pages 2641-2648 D'Andrea RJ et al, "Extracellular Truncations of h β c, the Common Signaling Subunit for Interleukin-3 (IL-3), Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor (GM-CSF), and IL-5, Lead to Ligand-Independent Activation" See whole document especially page 2644 and 2646	1-33
X	Blood Vol 89 March 1997 pages 1471-1482 Bagley, CJ et al, "The Structural and Functional Basis of Cytokine Receptor Activation: Lessons from the Common β Subunit of the Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor, and Interleukin-3 (IL-3), and IL-5 Receptors" See whole document especially pages 1474-1475.	1-33
Y	US 5516512 (GIST-BROCADES NV) 14 May 1996 See whole document.	1-13, 16-33
Y	WO 8702990 (SCHERING-BIOTECH) 21 May 1987 See whole document.	1-13, 16-33
Y	AU 73414/94 (MEDVET SCIENCE) 28 February 1995 See whole document.	1-13, 16-33
A	Blood Vol 83 May 1994 pages 2802-2808 D'Andrea R et al, "A Mutation of the Common Receptor Subunit for Interleukin-3 (IL-3), Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor, and Interleukin-3 (IL-3), and IL-5 that Leads to Ligand Independence and Tumorigenicity" See whole document.	1-33
A	Blood Vol 82 October 1993, pages 1960-1974 Miyajima A et al, "Receptors for the Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor, and Interleukin-3, and Interleukin-5" See whole document.	1-33

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU00/00394

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member			
WO	9707215	AU	66969/96	GB	2319034	
US	5516512	AT	154638	AU	60960/90	CA 2023246
		DD	301724	DE	69030937	DK 413383
		EP	413383	EP	810285	ES 2106017
		FI	903996	GR	3024679	HU 54411
		IL	95350	JP	4020295	NO 903544
		NZ	234869	PT	94992	
WO	8702990	US	5017691	AT	140009	CN 86108579
		CZ	9104141	DE	3650538	DK 3710/87
		EP	249613	ES	2088858	FI 873141
		GR	3021198	HK	1005594	HU 43630
		IE	80828	IL	80678	JP 8084591
		KR	9309084	NO	872988	PT 83761
		BR	1100157	SK	4141/91	ZA 8608748
		AU	67334/87			
AU	73414/94	WO	9504075	EP	715633	JP 9501154
		NZ	269766	US	5939063	CA 2168261
		SG	52238			
END OF ANNEX						

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.